

14/11-230

DRAFT PROJECT
FOR
AN INFORMATION BUREAU
OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FREE EUROPE

1

Basic Considerations

1. The political emigres from Eastern Europe and the Balkans have a large amount of information regarding conditions in their respective countries, and would be able to get much more, in fact to direct streams of current news to a central bureau. In addition, they are in a better position than most other persons or institutions to appraise the significance of Eastern European events. This appraising does not mean editorializing.

2. In order effectively to face and overcome the present world drive of imperial Communism against democracy, men and women in parts of the world that are still free—especially in the U.S.—should know more about the aims, methods and actions of Communist regimes.

3. Perhaps, many Americans and Western Europeans are "fed up" with news about Communism and would like to escape from learning more about it. Such a state of affairs—if it exists—constrains us all the more to find ways to bring facts regarding world Communism to the attention of the West—especially America. It increases our responsibility to devise effective methods for using the storehouse of current

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information at our disposal.

4. The National Committee for Free Europe in order to fulfill the purpose for which it was created must find work of a suitable nature for many educated political emigres. Instead of letting their productions lie in files or library stacks, these should be brought to the attention of the world. This would require comparatively little additional cost.

5. Actually the project might become partially self supporting.

II

Principal Activities

1. To prepare and distribute a large number of striking, readable, illustrated booklets, based on verified and irrefutable facts, regarding the workings of Communism in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

a. These booklets would deal with specific matters of personal interest, such as the family, school, songs, sport, picnics, labor, peasants, dwellings, books, papers, the routine of buying groceries and clothes, food on the dining table, transportation for parents and children, movies, churches, Sunday Schools, holidays, humor, etc. The aim would be to write History as it is being enacted, in a manner as sound as that of the Boards and as interesting as Walt Disney.

b. The authors would be men actually caught in the maelstrom of history, but all their writings would be anonymous and brought into focus or perspective.

Competent, informed emigres should describe in detail salient

aspects of life under Communist regimes as they exist from Poland to Macedonia; these accounts would be translated, coordinated, edited, illustrated and put out as a product of the National Committee for Free Europe. No politician, group, party or individual would be allowed to aggrandize himself through them. Both international labor and Eastern European peasantry could be given adequate scope without in any way offending other groups or Committees.

c. These writers would not work at the Bureau. They might be located at various places in the U.S. or Europe—even behind the Iron Curtain in rare cases. They would work under the supervision of the Bureau Pamphlet Editor and send their productions to him.

d. The booklets should be distributed in schools, churches, youth societies, labor unions, Knights of Columbus, womens clubs, service clubs, teachers organizations, etc. There is an urgent need of such material.

2. To collect and prepare current news, which should be distributed through regular news bulletins to newspapers and by direct contacts with news channels of various kinds.

a. One source of news should be the monitoring of radiocasts from Iron Curtain Countries. News about trends and events should be winnowed out of this great daily mass of Communist threats, promises, orders, criticisms, complaints, reports on trials and at trials, boasting, instructions. Such monitoring reports are available and can be winnowed at comparatively little cost. It is an excellent source of information and largely unused.

b. A second source of current news are Communist papers and periodicals from Communist ruled lands. Many are available or could be made available. By careful scrutiny and analysis, these will use much authentic current news. This source is almost entirely unused. In this activity the news Bureau should work closely with the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies who issue weekly an excellent "Current Digest of Soviet Press." It should also work with various University "Russian Institutes."

c. Text books, current collections of poems, cook books, pedagogical guides, song books, primers, women's magazines, altruistic publications from Communist governed countries must be collected and combed for material to be used in news bulletins and in pamphlets.

d. The foreign-language press in the U.S. is a source of some news unknown to the general public.

e. Literally hundreds of thousands of letters come to the U.S. from Communist ruled lands, and some of them contain very valuable information. Of course they must be sifted, weighed and coordinated.

f. Persons coming out of those lands constantly bring fresh news. If well organized this can be an especially fruitful source of information. We are in a better situation to organize this than any newspaper or private news agency.

g. Some contacts can be maintained with sources in countries behind the Iron Curtain.

3. A third aim is to establish a distribution service.

a. It should contact every organization that might (and should) use the pamphlets. These booklets should be sold at cost price, which ought to be almost as low as the literature of Witnesses of Jehovah--about the cheapest in the U.S. America has an extraordinary network of institutions with which the distribution service should keep in constant touch--it should also present our productions at conventions and conferences.

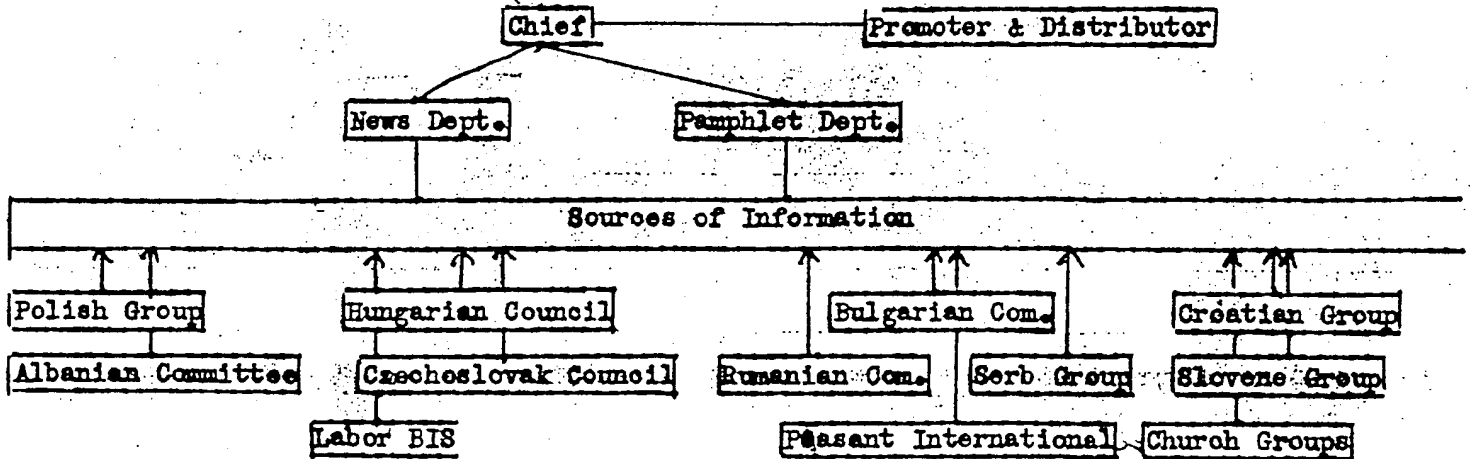
b. Distribution service should send out weekly news bulletins with items ready to be placed in the columns of daily and weekly papers; these should go to hundreds of newspapers throughout the U.S. If our news items are fresh, snappy, accurate, pertinent and in good newspaper form as to content and length, many papers might be glad to subscribe for them after the six months trial.

c. The News Bureau should get our special news reports on occasions of special happenings.

d. It should contact editors of leading papers and news agencies when big events break in Eastern Europe and should try to place articles by especially interesting emigres in the big magazines.

III

Organizational Set Up



Office Set Up (All very modest)

A space with desks for:

1) chief, (2) news editor, (3) pamphlet editor, several helpers and a room for mimeographing, expediting, storing.

Personnel at Beginning

Americans: Chief and perhaps two editors. Probably the chief could do the editing at the beginning. Thus, most of the personnel would consist of emigres.

Emigres: Not many would be employed at the information center. Not many would be given salaries by the Bureau. Most would be members of the Eastern European National Committees or employees of these Committees (or groups), each of which has its own office or offices. Each European Committee or group would designate a person or persons to give their main attention to this and keep in constant touch with the center, providing it with material.

They would work closely with the pamphlet department, on longer term assignments. The emigres contributing material for the pamphlets could be paid honorarium; most would already be paid by the New York Committee in one form or another. They would not be a primary burden on the Bureau, except as bookkeeping.

Every effort should be made to find artists (cartoonists) and news men among the emigres or rather to encourage the European Committees to find them. .

Liaisons: Through already established channels with Washington and with emigre Committees.

IV
Budget (Current)

A. For Material Requirements

General Office Space - - - - -

For News Department

Periodicals, papers and books - - - - -

Honorariums for European collaborators - - - - -

Newsprint and stamps - - - - -

For Pamphlet Dept.

Printing - - - - -

Distributor - - - - -

Honorariums - - - - -

B. For Personnel

Bureau Chief - - - - -

Secretary - - - - -

Promotor & Distributor - - - - -

Secretary - - - - -

News Editor - - - - -

Pamphlet Editor - - - - -

C. Initial One-Time Outlay

Equipment (including mimeograph machine and --- two typewriters)

D. Notes on Budget And Set Up

1. The Bureau should be started on a modest scale. It should be housed in simple offices and emigres should be used to the fullest possible extent. It should be and appear to be the kind of an undertaking that exiles have used through the ages in all lands.

2. If Bureau Chief is strong and diligent news editor and Pamphlet editor might conceivably be emigres. But they would have to be men of wide views and impartial to all groups; nationality groups, churches, labor peasantry. In any case, the two editors must know Eastern Europe and Eastern European well. In many daily disputes Bureau Chief would have to be final arbiter, so he, too, must know something of Eastern European tensions.